

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4747

### 1. Name

Historic 102 - 128 South Regester Street  
and / common

### 2. Location

street & number 102 - 128 South Regester Street  
city, town Baltimore  
state & zip code Maryland 21231 county

### 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	X occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
X building(s)	X private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	X private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	X yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

### 4. Owner of Property

name  
street & number telephone  
city, town state & zip code

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber  
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio  
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title  
date federal state county local  
depository for survey records  
city, town state & zip code

## 7. Description

**Condition**

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

**Check One**

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

**Check One**

☒ original site  
☐ moved:  
date of move: \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The west side of the 100 block of S. Regester St. is comprised of two groups of two-story-and-attic houses, built c. 1845 – 1855.

104 – 108 S. Regester St. is a group of three two-bay-wide, two-story-and-attic brick houses typical of a popular type of Baltimore rowhouse built in the late 1840s and 1850s to serve the city's growing working class population. The lower-pitched gable roof allowed for a more spacious upper story, which now could be lit by small rectangular windows at both the front and rear of the house, instead of the earlier dormer windows. Despite its practical nature, this new feature had its roots in a stylistic change in Baltimore's fashionable housing, the small "attic" windows being an important part of the façade design of much larger town mansions being built in the new Greek Revival style. 108 S. Regester St., built at the same time, is only two stories in height, with a very low-pitched gable roof.

The houses are 12'6" wide, and occupy lots 60' deep. Each house has a one-story brick rear kitchen addition somewhat narrower than the house. Because early house lots in Baltimore were laid out back to back, without rear service alleys, the only street entrance to the backyard is through the arched sallyport located in the center of each pair. The houses are constructed in running bond, and were always painted, but one has been covered with formstone. The low-pitched gable roof has a corbelled brick cornice decorated with a row of brick dentils. The roofs are covered with modern asphalt shingles overtop the original cedar shakes. A double, hooded chimney located at the peak of the gable roof, serves both the front and rear rooms. Each house also has a chimney at the rear of the kitchen addition.

All of the door and window openings have segmentally arched brick lintels, with plain tympanums and brick sills. At 108 S. Regester St. the second floor windows have flat wood lintels with bull's-eye corner blocks, a very unusual feature for this style and date of house. One original 6/6 sash survives at 108; the other window openings are filled with 1/1 replacement sash. All of the original doors have been replaced with a variety of replacement door types set beneath single light transoms, which have been covered with aluminum siding or boarded over. The houses sit on low basements, lit by a narrow sash. The entrances are reached by one concrete step.

**Continuation sheet**

122 – 124 S. Regester St. are a pair of two-bay-wide, two-story-and-attic brick houses, that are 14'6" wide and occupy lots 60' deep. The original facades have been obscured by formstone, but the houses were probably constructed in running bond, and were always painted. Because early house lots in Baltimore were laid out back to back, without rear service alleys, the only street entrance to the backyard is through the flat-linteled sallyport located in the center of each pair. The low-pitched gable roof has a simple corbelled brick cornice. A double chimney located at the peak of the gable roof, serves both the front and rear rooms. Each house also has a chimney at the rear of the kitchen addition. All of the door and window openings seem to have had segmentally arched brick lintels and wood sills. Window openings are filled with 1/1 replacement sash. The first floor window of 124 has been replaced by a wider plate glass window with stained glass transom, a style popular in the early 1900s, at which time the Arts-and-Crafts-style door was probably added as well. Doorways have single-light transoms and replacement doors. The houses sit on low basements, lit by a narrow sash. The entrances are reached by three brick steps.

126 – 128 S. Regester St. are a pair of two-bay-wide, two-story-and-attic brick houses, that are 12'2" wide and occupy lots 46'6" deep. The original facades have been obscured by formstone and aluminum siding, but the houses were probably constructed in running bond, and were always painted. Because early house lots in Baltimore were laid out back to back, without rear service alleys, the only street entrance to the backyard is through the arched sallyport located in the center of each pair. The low-pitched gable roof has a simple corbelled brick cornice. A double chimney located at the peak of the gable roof, serves both the front and rear rooms. Each house also has a chimney at the rear of the kitchen addition. All of the door and window openings seem to have had flat wood lintels and wood sills. Window openings are filled with 1/1 replacement sash. Doorways have single-light transoms and replacement doors. The houses sit on low basements, lit by a narrow sash. The entrances are reached by three concrete steps.

The houses are two rooms deep, with the front room being entered directly from the front door. The front and back rooms of the first floor are separated by a wide opening, with the tightly winding, narrow stairs set in the rear room, in the space between the partition wall and the fireplace. There are two bedrooms on the second floor of the main part of the house, each with a fireplace. The third floor attic rooms have low sloping ceilings, with a maximum ceiling height of about seven feet at the peak of the gable sloping down to about four feet at the front and rear of the house. The one-story rear addition served as the kitchen, with its own cooking fireplace.

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## 8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

Specific dates c. 1845 - 1855

Builder/Architect

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This row of houses is significant as being representative of a large group of such houses built in the 1840s and 1850s to accommodate the growing labor force centered around the Baltimore waterfront and the city's fledgling industrial areas, such as Canton and southwest Baltimore. Although showing stylistic influences from Greek Revival style buildings constructed in Baltimore in the 1830s and 1840s (in the proportions of the attic windows, the chaste exterior details, and the double parlor floor plan), the outstanding feature of these houses is their extreme simplicity of design and detailing. They are practical adaptations of a current mode of building, designed to meet the need for efficient, low-cost housing for a growing working class community. The floor plan is essentially the same as that of the earlier Federal-style two-and-a-half story houses, but the opening between the two rooms is wider, reflecting popular Greek Revival tastes. The increase in height of the third story (from a dormer story to an attic story) allowed the third story to be divided into two separate rooms, in place of the one open room of the dormer story, thus providing welcome additional private living space to large families or those who had to take in boarders. The houses do not differ markedly from similar two-story-and-attic houses built on nearby main streets—they are simply somewhat narrower versions priced to serve less affluent residents of the old walking city.

These particular houses were built at a time when Fells Point was already an important ship building center for the growing town of Baltimore and was beginning to have a few small factories. Early occupants included people involved in the maritime trades, small-scale craftsmen, and laborers who made their homes in the smaller-scale and more affordable housing located on the small "alley" streets of Fells Point. Until about 1850 Regester Street was known as Argyle Alley and its occupants were racially mixed.

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*  
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

## 10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

## 11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

city, town Baltimore

date June 2000

telephone

state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

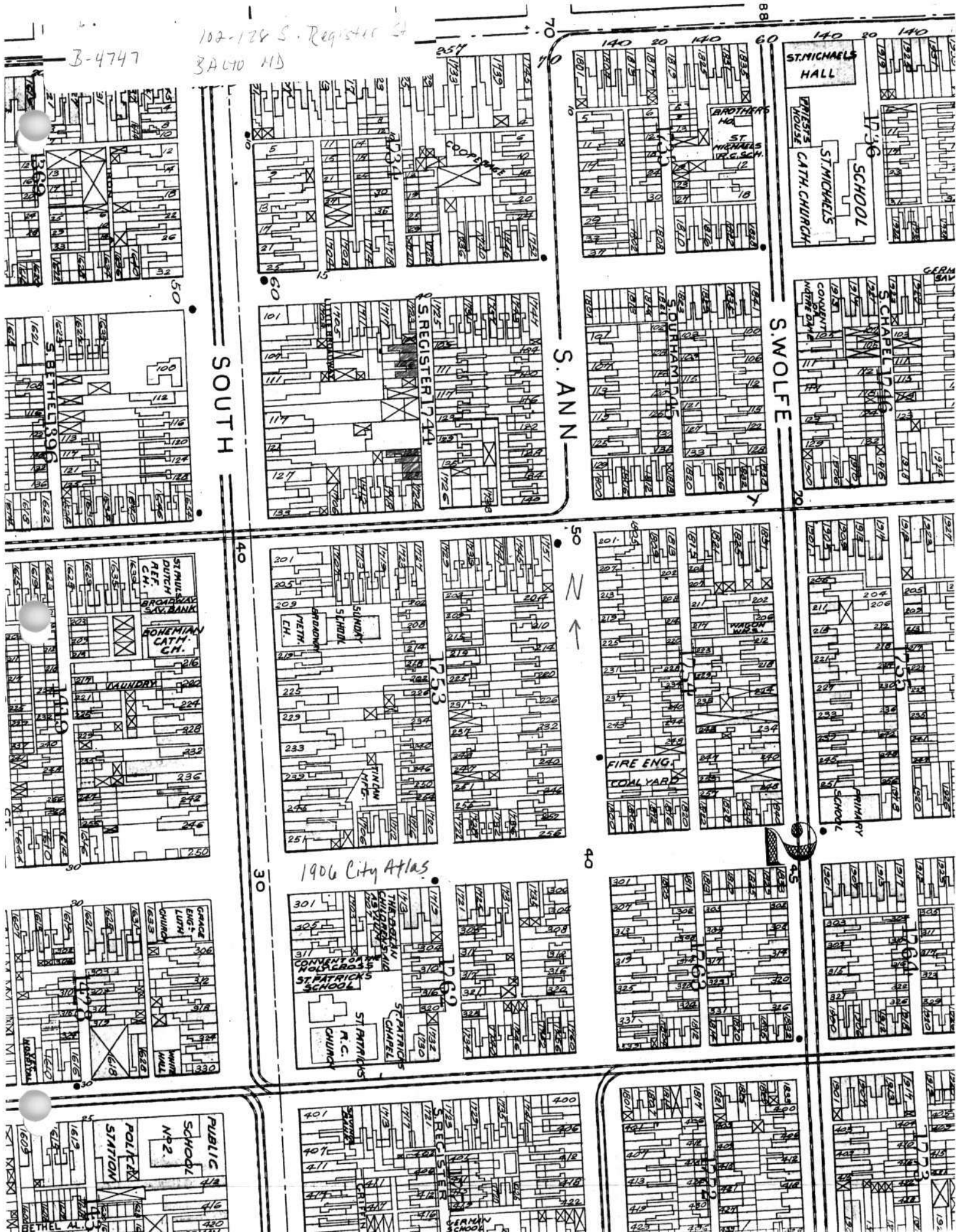
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of rights.

Return to:  
DHCP/DHCD  
Maryland Historical Trust  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032-2023



3A 670 HD

B-4747



B-4747  
102-128 S. Regester Street  
Block 1744, Lots 088-091 & 093-096  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.







102-106 S. Register

B-4747

102-108 S. Register 17.

3A. 10. 10

C. Berghme

11/97

M. J. A. M.

1/5

100

[22] 1012 1071



104 S. Register

B-4747  
104 S. Register St.  
BALTO. MD  
C. Betfoure  
11/97  
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100  
L213402 0211 MAR 1998





108 S. Register

B-4747

108 S. Register St.

BALTO. MD

C. Belgrave

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3/5

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172-128 S. Register

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102-128 S. Register St.

BA-TO. HL

C. Bluffm

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[190402 021] 4-1-4 30





124 S. Regester

B-4747

124 S. Regester St.

BALTO. MD

C. Belfrage

11/97

5/5

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